

August 3, 1999

Dear Harold,

Regarding your last letter to me of July 29, 1999, it appears you did not closely read my last letter to you of July 26, 1999, in which I specifically say that I do intend (contrary to what you suggest) to make an effort on my own to see if there is any support for the allegation you made in your book "Case Opened" that Oswald had a Top Secret clearance in the Marines and this fact was expunged from his Marine records. Also, contrary to your letter, I said that because of your health and age I did not want you to make any further effort to get this information for me.

As far as Oswald's Marine colleagues are concerned, nowhere in their testimony or affidavits do they say, as you allege, that they or Oswald had a Top Secret or even Secret clearance. As far as Oswald's superior, LT. John Donovan, is concerned, he did testify that he assumed Oswald had a Secret (not Top Secret) clearance because, he said, "that was a minimum requirement for all of us." (8H298) But the HSCA found that Donovan's assumption was incorrect. They reviewed the files of four enlisted men who worked with Oswald and learned they each had only a Confidential clearance. See HSCA Report, page 219, and JFK Document # 013677. So unless I (or you)

can come up with controverting evidence, Oswald's ~~Confidential~~ clearance, as set forth in his Marine records (19 H 665) seems to be accurate.

About my being responsible and factual, I don't think any true crime writer in America has a better reputation than I for being both of these things, and I don't intend to do anything to alter that reputation with my book on the Kennedy assassination.

Harold, if there is any reference to you in my book, it will be a respectful one, acknowledging all the seminal research you have done into the facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. I don't put you into the category of the Mark Taper, Robert Groden and Jim Garrison of this world.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Vince Bugliosi